THE STROBE

FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Students, Faculty Tour the Soviet Union

by Lisa Paine
Staff Writer

The Geneva Summit meeting in November made some promising advancements between the Soviet Union and the United States.

The progress of the meeting became a foremost issue for a group of twelve students and four faculty members who toured the U.S.S.R. from Jan. 6-18, visiting the cities of Moscow and Leningrad. The group profited by being tourists on the advent of warming tensions.

Dr. Pasquale Micciche, a History professor at FSC, organized the study/tour group with the assistance of Catherine Canney, director of special programs in the Office of Graduate and Continuing Education. Canney was unable to join the tour.

Academic Travel Abroad, of Washington D.C., made travel and tour arrangements for the group with Intourist, the state travel agents for the Soviet Union.

Dr. Irene Harris, professor in the English and Communications Departments, Drs. Anne and Elizabeth May, of the Education and Nursing departments, respectively, and Dr. Micciche made up the faculty portion of the group.

Students on the tour included Christopher Butler, Carolyn Dawe, Timothy Munn, Patricia O'Regan, Lisa Paine, Thomas Perrino, Sheila Scanlon, Heidi Slocum and David Uminski, all of FSC. Jane Orlando from Quinsigamond Community College, Patricia Scanlon from Northeastern University, and Colleen Walsh from Mount Wachusett Community College, also participated.

The group visited several Moscow cities, including the Kremlin, Lenin's Mausoleum, St. Basil's and G.U.M. Department Store when touring Red Square. They also went to the Tretyekov Art Gallery, the Exhibition of Economic Achievements and an excursion to Klin to visit the home of composer Peter Tchaikovsky. The group also enjoyed a sightseeing tour of the city (The Olympic Stadium, Pushkin Museum, Bolshoi and Mali Theatres, Moscow University, Rossia Hotel, Lenin Library, and the First British Embassy), and a guide of Moscow's metro system.

In Leningrad the group had another city tour, and also visited St. Isaac's Cathedral, the Siege Museum, Piskarevskye Cemetry, The Russian Museum, Alexander Nevsky Monastery, City Sculpture Museum, The Hermitage (The Winter Palace), a House of Friendship, Pavlosk Palace, Pioneer Palace, the Peter and Paul Fortress, and the Admirality Building.

If they could find time in the hectic schedule they were free to go downtown to shop on their own, visit the discos in the hotels, and mingle with the young people who were anxioius to trade goods.

On their last night in Leningrad the group was invited to a Gala Dinner. They enjoyed wine, champagne and caviar before presenting Dr. Micciche with a Russian-style fur hat.

The study/tour trip works in combination with a History of the Soviet Union course. The three credit social science class is now being instructed by Dr. Micciche.

Photo by Chris Butler

FSC students trade for Russian military clothing

In April the FSC Library will showcase a display of Soviet Union memorabilia, souvenirs and photographs collected by the group during their tour.

Canney is also coordinating summer foreign study/tours for credit in both Haute Alsace, France and Innsbruck, Austria.

John Ashbery

by Kellie A. Dauphinais
Staff Writer

John Ashbery, Harvard graduate and Pulitzer Prize winning poet read from several of his collections in the Conlon Arts Lecture Hall on February 12. After a brief introduction by Professor John McGrail of the English Department, Ashbery began reading selected poems in a relaxed, laid back manner.

Ashbery briefly described each selection and acknowledged individual poets, authors and artists who influenced his work. Ashbery, who had painting aspirations, instead became an art critic and is presently working for *Newsweek*. He described his career as a critic as something he sort of backed into when short on cash. Ashbery reasons that writing is easier than painting from a physical standpoint.

Painting, music and movies were a few of the topics focused on in his prose-like poetry. "Soonest Mended," his "one size fits all" poem, and "The Painter" hold images of brushes and canvas. "Worsening Situation," a poem coincidently read as the outside weather seemed to rock the Conlon Lecture Hall, deals with "dark headed charletons." Ashbery focused on music in respect to contemporary lyrics. This can be seen in his work, "Popular Songs."A keen interest in cartoons and movies takes form in "Lonedale Operator" a prose poem.

A poet of the times, his images and vocabulary are amusing and up to date. An honest approach to writing is seen in his poetry and modest personality. Ashbery admitted to having purchased a word processor that he hasn't yet learned to use. He describes Daffy Duck as his alter ego, "I may be a coward, but I'm a greedy little coward." Ashbery is a great example of a writer making it in the 80's.

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Assessment Week: Taking Stock

by Vincent J. Mara

As most students know, there will be no classes April 21 through 25. Monday, April 21 is Patriot's Day, a state holiday. From Tuesday, April 22 through Friday, April 25, faculty, administration, and some students will participate in a program that is known as Assessment Week.

Among the issues discussed will be the general education curriculum, issues of quality for the total education program, the general quality of life on campus, questions about remediation, and a number of other significant issues.

On the final day of the conference, a consensus on the issues will be arrived at, and action initiated through the proper channels.

A similar program was held 10 years ago at FSC. In the

Continued Page 10

When the Smoke Clears . . .

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

The smoking battle is raging

by Lisa McCarthy
Contributing Writer

The battle between the smokers and the non-smokers is currently raging on Capitol Hill.

Sam Donaldson, an ABC White House correspondent and a non-smoker, is working to pass legislation that will ban cigarette smoking during White House press conferences. Donaldson's efforts in creating a smoke-free press room stem from his colleagues' second-hand smoke—a substance considered quite lethal by the American Medical Association. He was defended, as well as opposed, by the members of a panel that appeared recently on The Phil Donahue Show.

Although Donaldson is taking his case to the legislature, it is clear that the issue is everywhere, even on FSC's campus. One student who refused to be identified noticed that the "No Smoking Area" in the commuter cafeteria is seldom observed, a fact that irritates her.

In opposition to any government involvement on such issues is Dean Overall, co-founder of PUFFS (People United For Friendly Smoking). Overall feels that the govern-

Continued Page 10

Student Profile:
Norman Thombs

by Faith Hills
Staff Writer

Folks in Russell Towers know him as "stormin Norman" the Resident Assistant, but his name is Norman Thombs. Norman is a second semester junior here in the 'Burg, and probably one of the most accomplished persons on campus.

Norman, originally from Maine, has accomplished a number of things since arriving in Fitchburg. Just recently Norman was the keynote speaker at a drug and alcohol awareness program at Mt. Blue High School in Farmington, Maine.

"It is possible to go through high school without drugs and alcohol. All you need is the courage to stand up to your peers." This was Norman's main focus at his recent 9th grade awareness program on drugs and alcohol.

Norman, whose father is a substance abuse counselor, has vivid memories of his fathers' dealings with kids involved in drug and alcohol abuse. "I see it so much, I want to open the younger kids' eyes so they don't get involved."

Norman has been an RA for two years and said it is "the best thing that ever happened to me." The RA position has taught Norman a lot about himself as well as his peers. As an RA, Norman is required to do approximately 15 hours a week of counseling as well as two living and learning programs.

Norman's most recent program, which he did with Paula Capobianco, was on suicide. "My main reason for choosing suicude is because in my freshmen year my best friend Danny hung himself."

Norman and Paula hope that their talks can help to ease the suffering of someone who has just lost a loved one, as well as aid people who are considering suicide.

Norman is quick to say that no one should "play counselor" when suicide is involved because it is a life and death situation. "When suicide is involved," Norman says, "within ten minutes at least two people above me know about it. That way I'm sure the person is getting the best help possible." Norman also adds, "We have an excellent counseling service available on campus."

Much of the information RAs use in their talks is gathered through research. "The first thing we do before talking on a topic is derive knowledge on that topic."LUK, an off-campus organization, has also aided them in finding out about suicide.

"The most help we received," Norman said, "came from a group called the Samaritans." The Samaritans are a church group organized to help people deal with suicide. Both of the handouts Norman and Paula use in their talks were given to them by the Samaritans with permission to copy any or all information.

Overall, Norman and Paula have addressed over 600 faculty, staff, and students (including President Mara), since their arrival at FSC.

Norman has also been very involved in helping the community. In the spring of 1982 Norman ran a carnival at Becker Jr. College in conjunction with the student council of his high school. All of the proceeds from the carnival went to the United Way.

Norman has also been an active participant in the renovation of the Statue of Liberty. Last spring when FSC put on an air band contest, Norman aided in the production of the event. All of the proceeds went to the Statue of Liberty renovation fund.

Photo by Sean Kessler

Stormin' Norman Thombs relaxing at home

Norman is also a member of the "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities" (March 1986), a member of Fitchburg State's National Honor Society, as well as the National Historical Honor Society. Norman has also been a member of the football team and the Judicial Board. However, he is no longer on the Judicial Board because it would be in conflict with performing RA duties. He no longer plays football because of an injury.

At present Norman is a History major with a minor in Physical Education, and a specialization in Psychology. When asked about the future Norman smiles and says, "I want to teach and coach."

Future of MASSpirg up to Students

by Allen Bush
Staff Writer

FSC's MASSpirg chapter is one of 24 public interest research groups on campuses across the state.

This student directed organization works with the principle that all students are citizens and their education should include experience solving society's consumer and environmental problems, and that they should graduate with skills useful to function in a democratic society.

MASSpirg is funded by a three dollar per student semester fee which can be waived. The money pays for a staff, research, advocacy, education, and lobbying. The fee will be raised to four dollars next semester to match other college campuses.

Being student funded, MASSpirg holds a referendum drive every two years to let students voice their opinions on decisions about their future. A current referendum is aimed to increase student awareness of this organization and to find out if students support MASSpirg on this campus.

Through a petition drive signatures will be collected and be presented to SGA where the question of MASSpirg's future will be added to the ballot on SGA elections. MASSpirg must gain a majority of votes to stay on campus.

Student Ambassadors

There is a group of students on campus known as Student Ambassadors, organized to aid the President and to serve as representatives of the school. Present members include Jim Allen, Scott Bodamer, Tina Boucher, Andrew Gallagher, Chris Leplante, Heidi Grant, Kay Mann, Doreen Papa, Heidi Parker, Karla Porrovecchio, Anthony Powell, Chris Powers, Kelly Reardon, Jim Shaw, and Katie Walsh, and are advised by Joe Farragher and Terry Carroll. The Student Ambassadors provide many services such as giving tours for Fridays at Fitchburg, Saturday Information Sessions as well as daily personal tours. They also participate in college fairs, telethons, multicultural events, etc. A member is also appointed to each administrative office in order to keep in touch with the various goings on.

These Student Ambassadors aren't well known, but serve as a useful aid to the administration.

Be a
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WRITER

Keough to Finish Amerikay

Bill Keough is on sabbatical with a mission.

Keough, a professor of English at Fitchburg State College, has to finish his half-written novel *Amerikay*. It must be completed not because of a publisher's deadline or any other such temporal restraints, but because Keough fears he may "lose" this novel that has occupied so much of his time these last three years.

"Already I've had dreams in which the book changes shape completely, in which the entire structure is transformed," says Keough of the novel, whose title is taken from an old Irish pronunciation of America.

Keough worries that any major changes at this point might delay the book for years, or even destroy the project altogether.

The novel is the first volume of a planned trilogy chronicling the life and times of one Irish family, the Concannons, from 1845 to 1940. The Concannons flee the Potato Famine of 1846, settling first on Prince Edward Island off the coast of Canada, and then, in 1893, in Boston.

Ironically, just as the Concannons fled Ireland in search of America, Keough leaves America to complete his book about the Irish.

"I can't finish the novel here," he says. "There are too many distractions." To be alone to write, he will travel first to Montserrat, an island in the British West Indies, and then, for research and atmosphere, to Ireland.

Also like the Concannons, Keough leaves this month in search of a piece of the American dream. Young Michael Joe Concannon dreams of owning a piece of land where he can start a farm and raise a family; Keough dreams of writing the Great American Novel, or at least a great novel. Or at the very least a publishable novel.

While Keough, a 43-year-old Irish-American born in Boston, has published a number of short works in various journals, he has yet to publish in what he considers to be his genre, the novel. He has written three novels: an autobiographical story about Harvard, where he did his undergraduate work; *No Complaints*, about an Irish-American cop in Boston; and *Dead Girls*, a murder mystery and analysis of father-daughter relationships. The first two made the rounds of publishers and were rejected. *Dead Girls* is still being revised.

Ad regards publishing, the odds are stacked against Keough. It's virtually impossible for a first-time author to get published these days, particularly if the work is a "serious" novel. Like Hollywood, publishing houses have developed a blockbuster mentality and Keough worries that "publishability" may influence his narrative style.

"It's difficult for someone without a proven track record to try anything different," he says. But while he has decided to adhere to a traditional narrative style, *Amerikay* will be devoid of what Keough calls "Barry Fitzgeraldisms,"—a sentimental and affected approach to Irsh dialogue and history.

"Irish-American novelists writing about the Irish have largely failed to capture the true essence of the country and its people," sayd Keough. "They usually get lost in a wash of sentimentality."

He says that his book will be different, that in focus and scope nothing like it has been attempted. "I wouldn't bother writing it if it had been done before," he says simply.

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FEATURES

Controversy Over New Fire Alarm System

by Joseph Gurney
Contributing Writer

The residents of Russell Towers Dormitory are sleeping a bit better this year, possibly due to the implementation of an ink throwing device which was installed in the fire alarms.

The device activates when a person pulls the alarm; ink, which is invisible to the unassisted eye, sprays onto the culprit's hand.

Following a fire alarm, the residents are lined up outside the doors to be checked for the ink. The Campus Police in connection with the Resident Assistants use an ultra-violet light to check residents' hands. With the new system, fire alarms have decreased by 30 percent, but controversy still looms over the new system.

The residents of the building have had to wait outside through this long and arduous process in the rain and snow. So far, not a single culprit has been caught.

Danette White, a resident of the building feels that "it's stupid to wait outside in the cold to try and catch the idiot who pulled the alarm." On the other hand, she feels, "It might be beneficial to the residents if a person was caught."

Another resident, Amy Sirios, believes that "The person who pulls the alarm is not about to stand in line to have his or her hands checked."

Steve Pierce who works as a Resident Assistant in the building had another view of the situation. He thinks the decrease in alarms has been due to the new system. People are afraid to pull the alarms, when before they really had no chance of being caught.

He also believes that "even though people might not like the system, they are sleeping a lot more than they have been in the past.

"If we did not have this system they (the residents) would be complaining about how many alarms we have, and now with the new system they complain about the waiting out in the cold, you cannot win!," exclaimed Pierce.

Men and Women of FSC

by Thomas Proulx
Staff Writer

First there was *The Men of USC* and *The Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Calendar*. Now Fitchburg State College is getting into the act. In mid-March the senior class will be selling two calendars, entitled *The Men of FSC*, and *The Ladies of FSC*.

The calendars will feature 24 FSC students who were selected from a pool of 60 nominations. The nominations, which were taken in G-lobby, were narrowed down to 17 female candidates and 15 males. These students were then photographed and the final models were chosen.

The Ladies of FSC will contain three women in swimsuits, one in a leotard, several in spring and fall outfits, and one in winterwear. Not to be outdone, *The Men of FSC* will feature several location shots in such places as the library and in the gym. The coveted cover spots on the calendars go to Bobbie McMahon and Kim Buckley.

These black and white calendars which are the brainchild of Rick Dearborn and Kathy Dever, will probably never attain the notoriety of *The Men of USC*, but they are certainly an interesting approach to fund-raising.

Buckle Up

by Michael Rososky
Contributing Writer

If a dollar could be had for every time someone is seen not wearing a seat belt it would be an easy way to become rich. But there is a seat belt law now. The driver and passengers in a motor vehicle must wear a safety belt. The seat belt law has been in effect for almost two months, and still many people refuse to buckle up.

Like any law, this one is followed by questions and controversy along with excuses and complaints. Here are some interesting facts about this recent Massachusetts legislation:

You can only be exempt from wearing a seat belt if a doctor states in writing the nature of your condition and why the use of a seat belt is inappropriate.

If your seat belt is missing or broken you must get it fixed or replaced before you have your car inspected. Seat belts will be part of automobile inspection and if they are not operable your car will not pass inspection.

If you are involved in an accident and were not wearing a seat belt it cannot be used against you in any civil action. The fine for not wearing a seat belt is $15 with no insurance surcharge. As a driver you are responsible for your ticket and those of any passengers under age 16. Passengers 16 years of age or older are responsible for their own actions and will receive their own tickets. If there are more passengers than seat belts the extra passengers are exempt.

So unless you are a mail carrier, a police officer, a passenger on a bus, or if your car was built before July 1, 1966—buckle up! It is the law now.

Men and Women from MARS

by Lisa McCarthy
Contributing Writer

"This is my mental health hour," explained Jim Shaw when questioned about his interest in the MARS organization at FSC.

Shaw, a Secondary Education in Biology major, is one of about 20 individuals currently involved in the group for mature and returnung students. They meet each Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in the Academic Advisement Center along with advisors Cynthia Tower and Richard Spencer.

The reasons why students return are many. Lorraine Elia, an English major, after raising her family, came back to college for "self-satisfaction." Kimberly King, a 34-year-old sophomore, simply "loves school." Others seek higher paying jobs, or to acquire the degree they began working on years earlier but never seemed to finish.

Although all students have a lot in common, the non-traditional student (23 and up) has certain needs separate from those who are younger. For three years MARS has provided an hour of support, a caring ear, and perhaps a solution or two for the many challenges faced by the student who is juggling studies, a job, and a family.

With the ever increasing number of older students flocking into FSC, new situations develop that are unique to a more youth-oriented college campus. One such situation has become a problem, according to Karen Pelletier, a Biology major and MARS member. "There are many people how have chosen not to come to FSC because of the lack of day-care," stated Pelletier at a recent meeting.

MARS is working to provide a solution in the future, and views day-care as being useful to both students and faculty, as well as a possible form of practicum work for students majoring in Early Childhood and Human Services. Meanwhile, several local residents commute daily to Worcester State and Salem State where day-care is available for their children.

MARS is currently petitioning for club status which involves formulating a constitution and electing club officers. Future activities include planning more social events for older students, and developing a special orientation program geared toward the new, older student in the fall.

Facts About Hunger

by Kathy Stinglen
Staff Writer

I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day...I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, other-centered men can build up...I still believe we shall overcome.
Martin Luther King

Did you know these important facts about hunger?

- More than 34 million Americans were living below the poverty lines as of 1983, including almost one-quarter of all children and more than one-third of all blacks.
- The United States government has a stockpile of more than two billion pounds of surplus food. It is estimated that Americans waste more than 200 billion pounds of food every year—approximately 20% of our total food production.
- Requests for emergency food assistance have more than doubled in many cities during the last few years. In 1983, the U.S. Conference of Mayors described hunger as "the most prevalent and most insidious problem" facing them.

Just For The Record

Last Issue

Dr. Irene Harris, our faculty advisor, was inadvertantly omitted from our staff box.

Views on Shuttle Tragedy

by April L. Page
Staff Writer

January 28, 1986 will be a date tragically remembered. The explosion of the space shuttle, Challenger, will be recorded in history books as well as on grave stones.

Fitchburg State students speak out on the recent tragedy. Sophomore, Randy Harris remembers hearing the news in anatomy lab when a professor walked in and said the space shuttle had blown up.

"I was in shock," said Harris.

Although seven lives were last as a result of the space shuttle mission, Harris feels the space shuttle program should continue, "It (the space shuttle program) is like a workshop."

A junior, who refused to be identified feels that, "You can't give up on anything because of one setback."

When asked about the media coverage of the space shuttle disaster the junior responded that the media "dwelled too much on the loss of her (Christa McAuliffe's) life but not on the other lives."

Freshman Lou Ann Johnson, thinks there was too much coverage on McAuliffe and that they shouldn't have shown her parents on the television screen as the explosion occured.

Looking at the space shuttle tragedy with a different perspective, nineteen year old Laurie Daigle remarks, "I don't think they're heroes. They were paid for it and they knew the risks.

Time Management

by Doreen M. Papa
Contributing Writer

Recently Adrien Dorfman spoke on the subject of "Time Management in our Careers and our Personal Lives." Dorfman is a woman of many talents. With a B.A. degree as well as two masters degrees, one earned at Boston University, Dorfman feels she can help people decide what their priorities are and how to manage time accordingly.

Dorfman's technique of discussion was appealing. Approximately 35 women attended the workshop and split up into groups of seven or eight. Each person marked their priorities on a ditto sheet and then discussed them with their group. Dorfman did not promise at the end of the workshop that priorities and time would be perfectly established, instead she made each person aware of his/her own thoughts and gave tips to enhance them.

WXPL 91.3FM

Clubs

Band

Attention music lovers! The FSC Band and Jazz Ensemble, directed by Dr. Frank Patterson, has openings in all areas. All musicians are welcome!

The Jazz Ensemble rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 4-5:30 p.m. in Weston Auditorium. The Band rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in Weston Auditorium. No audition is required for Band, but it is required for the Jazz Ensemble. We will supply an instrument for you if you don't have one.

Some upcoming events for this semester include: the annual tour, the Pre-Tour Concert, Spring Concert, Convocation, and Commencement.

Coffeehouse

Marianne Kreitlow will appear at Coffeehouse on March 9 in the Campus Center Pub. Kreitlow appeared at FSC in the Spring of 1985. She and singer/guitarist Dennis Pearne performed many selections from her "Wrapped Around The Sun" album.

Kreitlow is an established performer on the New England folk circuit and frequently performs at "Passim's" in Cambridge.

The show is sponsored by the Programs Committee and admission is free. The performance begins at 8 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Math Skills Center

The Math Skills Center, located on the third floor of the library, provides free tutoring in mathematics to students.

While in-depth tutoring is available, students are also encouraged to work on their homework at the center and to use the tutors when needed.

All tutoring is done on a drop in basis. The hours of the Math Skills Center Are:

Monday-Thursday 12:30-5:30, 6:30-8:30
Friday 12:30-2:30

Computer Science Club

The Computer Science Club will be holding its first general meeting on March 6, 1986. It will take place during all college period (1:30pm) in Edgerly room 206. The meeting will address the upcoming executive board elections, a St. Patrick's Bake Sale (March 12 & 13), and possible activities.

Masspirg

Between 13 and 20 million people die each year as a result of hunger or starvation. That breaks down to about *40,000 deaths per day and more than 25 per minute.* Three out of every four who die are children.

On March 6 from 9:30-2:30 PM in G-lobby of the Hammond Building, MASSPIRG will sponsor a Stamp-Out-Hunger day. Donations can be made in the form of money or canned food, and will benefit a local food bank. There is a demonstrated need for this type of aid in Fitchburg and surrounding communities, and donations will be extremely appreciated.

MASSPIRG is asking anyone who makes a donation to sign a foot-shaped petition which is symbolic of stamping out hunger. This petition will be sent to Congress in advocation of legislation combatting the hunger problem in the United States.

Any other local organizations or student groups interested in stopping the hunger problem, are invited to join MASSPIRG in G-lobby on this day.

Psi Chi

Do you qualify to become a member of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology? The 4th annual initiation ceremony will be held in May of this year but preparations have already begun to select qualified students into its membership.

The Society was established in 1929 for the purpose of encouraging, stimulating and maintaining scholarship in the science of psychology. It is an affiliate of the American Psychological Association. The FSC charter was installed in 1983 and each year a new group of students are initiated.

To be eligible for membership, students must be declared Psychology majors *or* minors, maintain an overall cumulative average of 3.2 and have completed 12 credit hours in psychology. For information on how to declare a minor in psychology, contact Dr. John Dufault, Chairman of the Behavioral Science Department.

For more information concerning Psi Chi, an informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 5 and 3:30 pm in G-05.

Hope for the Homeless

by A.L. Page
Staff Writer

The homeless in Fitchburg are becoming a growing problem. In the Fitchburg/Leominster area a total of 1,356 homeless individuals were referred to agencies during the period of September, 1984 through March, 1985.

According to a survey done by the North Central Massachusetts Housing Committee, 85% of those reported homeless are women and their children. An overwelming 83% are single parent families and 15% are males.

Among the homeless, according to the Salvation Army Booth House, 50% of the people housed had alcohol or drug problems and 15% had incapacitating emotional problems. Ellen Henighan, the House Manager of Our Father's House in Fitchburg, believes that 70-80% of the homeless, who are referred to Our Father's House have emotional or drug/alcohol related problems.

Kathleen McDermott, Executive Director of Monachusett Opportunity Council and Convener of North Central Massachusetts Housing Committee, says that there are several reasons why people are homeless.

These reasons range from being "thrown out" by a spouse or partner, unemployment and disasters such as a fire. However, the most prevalent problems in the Fitchburg area are evictions and rent increases. Several agencies report that the high cost of housing and the lack of affordable adequate housing are cited over and over.

In response to the growing population of the homeless, Fitchburg has recently (March 1985) opened Our Father's House, a short term shelter. Our Father's House is supported by several local organizations such as Christ Church, businesses and and individual donations as well as the Department of Welfare. Our Father's House holds four or five families and twenty-six singles a night but on cold nights Our Father's House often fills over capacity.

Although people are becoming aware of the growing problem of the homeless in Fitchburg, McDermott does not "see shelters as a long term solution but as a short term solution." McDermott believes that there is a need for more affordable housing for all walks of life, from the mentally handicapped to the single parent.

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Personals

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To all blonde, blunt-cut girls: get a large quantum theory grip.

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Hey Joe, I was born in a small town. Now that ain't workin'.

I don't smoke dope.

To all teachers stop making sense.

T.P.,
Extinguish my pain!
N.C.

To the loveliest and sweetest lady in the world—my wife—flowers and love forever,
J.C. to A.C.

To Jeff: May your ice cream business never fail! And our friendship never end.

Dear Laurie,
Happy Valentine's Day (late) to the most beautiful Italian I know!
Hugs and Kisses, Chris

LIKE WORKING WITH MAPS?

Boston regional office of the United States Census Bureau needs people to digitize updates from census maps into a cartographic data base. Starting salary is $6.18 per hour. The work will be done at the Boston Regional office, located in Copley Square, Boston, and is expected to take two years to complete. Positions are now available for day and evening shifts up to 40 per week.

Requirements: U.S. Citizen, high school graduate or equivalent, pass 20 minute written test. Skills in map reading, map interpretation, cartography and computer knowledge will be helpful.

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Announcements . . .

Programs

March 3: The Outlets
8: Film—*The Goodbye Girl*
9: Coffeehouse—Marienne Kreitlow
10-14: KAOS
12: Film—*Wait Until Dark*
24: Comedy Night
26: Film—*Philadelphia Experiment*
29: Film—*African Queen*
30: Coffeehouse—*Dave Binder*
April 4: A pub night with Geneva (featuring Dan Gorman)

Newman Center — Holy Week schedule:

Mon. March 24—Prayer Meeting, 12 noon — Mass, 9 p.m.
Tues. March 25—Mass, 4:30 p.m.
Wed. March 26—Mass, 12 noon and 4:30 p.m.
Holy Thursday, March 27—Confessions, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
—Mass, 7 p.m.
Good Friday, March 28—Stations of the Cross, 12 noon
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EDITORIALS

The Strobe encourages all readers to express their opinions on any issue.

Auto Insurance Reduction Sought

by Linda Doucette

As a driver of a 1980 Chevy who lives 40 miles outside the Boston area, I am paying 50 percent more for auto insurance than I did three years ago. I lived 14 miles from the city of St. Louis and drove the same car which was only one year old at the time.

The staggering cost of auto insurance in the state of Massachusetts is among the highest in the country. For most drivers it is a major expense that takes a big bite out of their budget.

If you are a driver in good standing you may get a break. Some insurance companies reward their clients who hold an accident-free record. These drivers receive a $50 deduction on their total yearly charge.

Should a person be involved in an accident in Massachusetts, however, where he is found 51% at fault, not only is the $50 not deducted but a $50 surcharge is added on the policy for three consecutive years.

If you add this $100 a year loss over the three year period it adds up to an additional $300 over and above the cost of car insurance. If the surcharge is imposed to defray costs for the insurance company why do auto coverage rates continue to rise year after year?

If the rates are determined by accident statistics it must be considered that some of those statistics are from out-of-state drivers. Why must Massachusetts drivers shoulder the entire burden of the high cost of car insurance for this state?

The process the insurance companies have of charging their customers should be examined. There should be some control or ceiling imposed to stop the progressive increase of rates.

One state can't have that many bad drivers.

Reagan and Reality

by James G. Salsman

There is a myth today that Ronald Reagan is a pro-capitalist president who has drastically cut social spending and taxes, and that the failure of such free market policies have brought on our current deficit problem. No prevailing myth could be further from fact.

Reagan has not cut Federal spending *at all.* The annual rate of increase in spending has been slowed from 22% before Reagan took office to about 6% today. Government is still growing and spending more, just not as fast.

There have been *no* substantial cuts in social spending. Domestic spending still encompasses half of the entire budget. We are spending 37% *more* on food stamps today than we did before Reagan. The budget for federal housing projects under Reagan *rose.* Medicare *rose* from 39.1 billion dollars in 1981 to 70.2 billion today. Reagan has proposed to spend more on student aid than any of his predecessors did, and he has enlarged that budget by half a billion dollars during his term.

Reagan the tax cutter is anything but. During his first term he *raised* taxes several times. He lobbied for a 100 billion dollar tax hike in 1982 (the largest in our nation's history), he increased the Social Security payroll tax, and he raised the Federal gasoline tax just to name a few.

We do not have a deficit because Reagan is fulfilling his pledge to rebuild American military superiority. He scaled back his original defense outlay projections by more than $100 billion during his first term alone, and last year he signed a bill in which defense spending didn't grow *at all.* during his first term, Reagan the "pro-defense" president spent $15 billion *less* than Jimmy Carter proposed we should spend during the same four years.

The problem with the disparity between Reagan's pro-freedom rhetoric and the reality of his policies, is that when his policy of maintaining government control of the economy drives us into another recession (as it sooner or later will), such a calamity will be blamed on Reagan's "pro-capitalist" stance. The true culprit is Reagan's continuation of government regulation and taxation of the economy. This will lessen the chances any true advocate of capitalism has of being heard in the future.

Comments

If you have any ideas or suggestions concerning upcoming issues of **The Strobe**, please drop a letter in the Editor's mailbox or stop down the office sometime during the day. (**The Strobe** office is located on the bottom floor of the Hammond building).

Tangible Proposals . . . For Tangible Results

by Lisa Paine

Mikhail Gorbachev's arms-control proposal shows that Moscow is willing to go the extra mile in stopping the arms race.

Such was the thrust in a Feb. 11 editorial in *The Boston Globe*, entitled "Moscow's Extra Mile."

Some interesting points were made: "Although Gorbachev's bid for total nuclear disarmament within 15 years could be dismissed as rhetorical, the rest of the sweeping proposal dealt squarely with valid Western concerns.

Though there is a strong tendency toward viewing Soviet proposals as propaganda, or even evil lies, the willing concessions offered cannot be dismissed as idle talk.

In reference to the Soviet offer to drop medium range missiles without a U.S. promise to end "Star Wars" development, the editorial continues: "Here, above all, Gorbachev is going the extra mile 'to unravel what is perhaps one of the most complicated tangibles in present-day world politics,' as he has put it."

Gorbachev's offer to end chemical weaponry may alsy be construed by some as more idle chatter. "Another article of faith for U.S. hawks is that chemical weapons are a realm of clear Soviet superiority. Gorbachev called for their abolition, with thorough verification as stockpiles and production facilities are eliminated."

The editorial then attacks the U.S. non-action response to Gorbachev. "Refusal to budge on 'star wars' would betray a lack of serious intent in Washington, and also a dearth of negotiating horse sense."

The stress is now on time: "Visions of space marvels are paling under budget pressure, mounting scientific scrutiny and some technological reappraising prompted by the loss of the shuttle. The threat of 'star wars' will probably never have more value as a bargaining chip that it has today."

How will we attempt to make deals in the future if we no longer have anything to bargain with?

The editorial calls readers to consider also, that "Gorbachev has his own anti-arms-control faction to contend with. If his efforts for detente are endlessly rebuffed, the Kremlin may justifiably conclude that nuclear obstinacy is the only language Americans understand."

Isn't it time for Reagan and his administration to stop playing king and kingdom and wake up from their fantastical illusion of dealing with the U.S.S.R.'s perceived power, might, fright, and evil with their staunch inactivity?

Senator Edward Kennedy said, "we in our generation hold in our mortal, fallible hands the most awesome power that any generation has ever known—we will control and then quench the flame or it will consume us. Together we will make history or together we will end it."

With that power in our hands it is time for the U.S. government to do something with it.

The opinions expressed in editorials are those of the writer and not necessarily those of **The Strobe** *editors.*

LETTERS

Dear Editor:

I am addressing this letter to all those students who plan to go away for spring break. I would like to warn them of the possible dangers of dealing with a travel agency.

In November, my friend and I registered to take a "Montreal Weekend" with Town Tours and Travel Agency. My friend cancelled out a couple of weeks before the trip and forfeited her deposit. Meanwhile, I sent in my balance and another friend from Framingham State registered for the trip. She paid the bill in full and we planned to go together from FSC.

Unfortunately, the travel agency had planned for us to go on separate weekends. We explained our situation to the agency and they reluctantly agreed to let us go on the same weekend at a later date.

In the meantime, we had made arrangements to take time off from work since the original departure date was coming up. After a lot of red tape, our managers allowed us to have more time off. This "Montreal Weekend" began on a Friday and continued through Sunday—prime working time.

On the Wednesday night before the trip, my grandmother died. Thursday, I called the travel agency and cancelled my trip as well as my friend's trip. The agency was upset because I cancelled at the last minute, but assured me a refund.

Since that weekend in November, I have phoned, written and even threatened the agency to return my money. Although the agency said that I could not get my deposit back, I haven't seen my balance either.

I have also discovered that there are five other students who could not get their money back because of last minute cancellations. As a frustrated and concerned student, I want to warn others to beware of Town, Tours and Travel Agency and any other agencies that solicit student business.

Signed,
April L. Page

LETTERS

Letter to the Editor:

Utility rates in Massachusetts are much too high.

The high utility bills that I have been receiving are now starting to take a toll on my small and limited budget. I am a third year college student at FSC and I know that if the utility rates are affecting me, then they are also affecting the budgets of the elderly, the disabled and the one and two parent families.

Since residential ratepayers bear the financial burden of utility decisions, it is only fair that we have input into these decisions.

Right now, there is a piece of legislation called CUB (Consumer Utility Board). CUB will give residential ratepayers full-time advocates to represent their views and needs before the Department of Public Utilities. The DPU acts as a judge in hearings on whether a utility company deserves a rate increase, a new power plant, or a new investment.

The utility companies often get away with their high rate increases because they have attorneys, economists, and other experts to argue their cases in front of the rate-setting DPU. The bad thing about it is that the utility consumers end up paying for these experts.

So in order for the CUB to work, it needs the active support of the ratepayers of Massachusetts.

What you must do is write to your state representative and Senator, and ask them to take a lead role and support the Citizens' Utility Board bill-initiative, because they also pay for the high cost of utility rates.

Selvin Chambers
High Utility Rate Payer

COMMENTARY

A Soviet Union for the Senses

by Lisa Paine
Staff Writer

The Soviet Union scratches at the senses of foreigners.

Visually, the eyes delight in the beauty and grandeur of Moscow and Leningrad's architecture, palaces and art museums. There is a richness of visual history in the Soviet Union not evident in the modern, fabricated cities of the United States.

Foreign eyes probe the faces of Soviet citizens, too. We look to find the differences and then discover how alike we are. We mingle with them on the streets, all of us under the overhanging cobweb of tram rails in the densely populated cities.

Moscow residents (Moscovites) are much like people in any big city in the United States. They are well dressed, almost always in a hurry on the subways and fast drivers. The bobbing of fur hats, some neatly brushed, others an unruly blur, make the most distinctive visual difference.

The architecture of some of the buildings, like St. Basil's and the gold plated, onion shaped domes on many church cathedrals, sets visitors back to another time in the past, or into the future, post-Disneyland.

In the cathedrals, gold plated icons stare back at visitors. Huge malachite columns posture on the sides of altars, and imposing statues of saints lean from high up the steeple walls taking discerning, yet benevolent looks at their flock.

The small private homes, or dachas, for the privileged few are found only outside the cities. They serve as winter weekend retreats and summer homes. The idiosyncratic colors and decorations of the dachas make them look like little gingerbread homes. Snow hangs on the eaves like icing.

Though many of the citizens wear dark clothing, they do not appear drab. U.S winters can be undeniably drab when the roads are full of nothing but slush and only dirty brown snow lines the streets.

The snow removal in the Soviet Union is scrupulous. 'Snow scoopers,' mini-plows with paw-like extensions at their base, embrace the snow piles and convey the snow up a belt and into a waiting dump truck. The snow is then taken right out of the city.

Visually, as well as psychologically, the absence of sunshine is one of the drabbest and coldest things about Soviet climate. A New England winter can battle with the best of any, but before long there is always a bright blue sky and glaring sun to ease the cold, uncommon in a Soviet winter.

The snow and ice frozen on the trees are nearly permanent winter wonderland fixtures in the Soviet country. The ice softens and whitens the interlocking lace work on tree branches.

Moscow and Leningrad are, no doubt, all the more beautiful in the late spring and early summer, when they have beautiful sunny spring days and the park gardens are in a full bloom of color.

As beautiful as the setting and the architecture of some of the historical buildings, are the insides. The palaces are even more opulent than one might expect. The Moscow metro, however, is also beautiful. The stations, cleaned several times a day, were designed by well-known architects and decorated in semi-precious stones and metals. Almost as impressive as the metro's appearance, is its sense of safety. There is no need for Guardian Angels in Moscow.

Foreigners become accustomed to the differences. We learn to expect the Intourist busses to stop on the yellow light and not on the red. We also learn not to expect the freshest, shiniest apples every day, and for the root vegetables to have that same perservative taste about them.

Foreigners can also expect the soup to warm both their bellies and their childhood memories of grandma, and for the bread and ice cream to be superb. The water may not be the best, but it makes the Pepsi taste all the better.

The Soviet Union also offers something for the ears. When visiting Piskaievskye Cemetery, amidst the snow-filled trees come strains of classical music piped in from speakers along the borders of the walk ways.

Foreigners experience the auditory excitement from the music at folk concerts, symphonies, and if fortunate, the experience culminates in the sensual climax of a Russian ballet.

The cultural experiences that one would be lucky to have in a year are crammed into a foreigner's often short stay. The Soviets are justifiably proud of their accomplishments in the arts. The tourists benefit immensely from their willingness to expose and share their culture.

A Mathematical Experience

by Kathy Stinglen
Staff Writer

Do you have a problem dealing with math classes? Do you study your textbook on both nights of the weekend, just so you can go to sleep with a clean conscience? Do you get up at nine in the morning to study your figures, even though your only class for the day starts at two in the afternoon? Do these sound like the symptoms anyone you know is experiencing? If so, what do you do?

My sister is a senior at a Framingham State College and she is already experiencing technical difficulties with her math class. Granted, not everyone likes math. I don't, but should she be this nervous so early in the semester? She has not one, but two tutors which she regularly meets with twice a week. She gets up early to study, and she even studies on the weekend. And she's afraid she's going to flunk this class.

What should I tell her? I've never known anyone that studies so hard. Maybe I should talk to her teacher, or perhaps a bribe would work. Maybe a couple of sedatives would be better, or perhaps the school nurse knows a cure. Maybe she should take a course on dealing with stress—I wouldn't be surprised if the college had one. Or perhaps an art class would help her vent her frustrations?

What is the best solution? I wonder how much a 2.0 would cost?

167 and Counting

by Lisa Paine
Staff Writer

"I've been pregnant for almost eight years," said a surprisingly young looking 46 year old woman.

Mother of ten children, Claire has kept a running total of how long she's been pregnant. "It's been more than eight years," she said. "And unfortunately, only the first one was on time. The rest of them were two or three weeks late.

"It's almost impossible to calculate how many times I've diapered a baby . . . diapers for at least a year, and at least five changes a day," as she quickly calculates, "that's over seventeen thousand diapers. Arghhh.

"The other night I woke up and couldn't get back to sleep. Instead of counting sheep, for some odd reason I started figuring out how many pounds of potatoes I've peeled in the past 25 years of marriage. It's been more than three tons, I think, when I averaged it at five pounds a week.

"And for loaves of bread—say five loaves a week, not counting muffins, rolls, buns, bagels or bisquits, that's about 6,500 loaves in 25 years.

"The list could go on. Right now I do about ten loads of wash a week . . . I don't want to know how many loads that'll add up to. But I could figure out how many books I've covered for the kids, how many gallons of milk we've gone through, dozens of eggs, boxes of cereal, bars of soap . . . But I don't really have the time to do it.

"Maybe some day I'll write a book about it—*Claire's Book of Tallies*, and every year I could do an updated edition.

"Oh, by the way, and this is just counting for my children, birthday party number 167 is coming up real soon."

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The Strobe encourages readers to express their opinions. The following are guidelines for submissions:

1. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced.
2. Letters to the editor must include the author's name. If the person wishes to remain anonymous, The Strobe will withold the name, but it still must be included with the letter.
3. After this issue, editorials will be limited to less than *300 words*. A reminder-editorials written in the third person.
4. News and announcements from clubs and organizations must be one paragraph in length. If they are too long, they will be made short.

ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Hot Rocking With Cut 299

by Tim Boutin
Staff Writer

Cut 299, a new dance-rock band from Boston, visited the Connection on Feb. 3 and rocked the joint.

Cut 299 features the vocal talents of Bobby Marron who formerly handled those chores for The Atlantics. Members of the now defunct Boston band New Romance are also in Cut 299's line-up.

The band, dressed to kill, took the stage (the floor in this case), and shifted into gear early with "The Art of Dreaming," and "Somewhere In The Middle Of Love." Marron is the band's visual focal point, combining high energy dancing with strong singing. Though his distinctive voice evokes memories of The Atlantics, Cut 299 seems tighter and more polished when held in comparison.

The band finished their first set with "When We Dance," their first single. Their debut e.p. (on tape) receives airplay on WBCN, WFNX, and WXPL on the strength of the single.

The group began their second set with "Can I Fall In Love?" and "Dance With Me." They slowed things down a bit with the ballad, "Before We Fall", and had several members of the audience dancing during "Take You Into Heart." The show ended with a rocker "Get It Hot," "Us Love," and a reprise of "When We Dance."

Cut 299 is a band that could be going places. The alcohol-free audience that viewed the show enjoyed it but might have been more responsive if the suds were flowing.

The band might consider dipping into several old Atlantics numbers. Maybe a rendition of "Lonely Hearts" or "Weekend" instead of repeating "When We Dance?"

NOW SHOWING AT CCLH

by Dan Lincoln
Contributing Writer

MARCH 5—"The Jerk" (1979) Watch Steve Martin go from rags to riches to rags. Some great one-liners and Martin is always a delight to watch. If laughs are your bag see this one. ★★½

MARCH 8—"The Goodbye Girl" (1977) Good Neil Simon adaptation about an emerging actor moving in with a woman who has had a series of bad romances. Richard Dreyfuss earned an Oscar for his role as the actor. Good romantic comedy. ★★★

MARCH 12—"Wait Until Dark (1967) Classic suspense film about the terrorizing of a blind woman by hoods who believe she is concealing heroin. Alan Arkin stars as a slimy villain, threatening the life of Audrey Hepburn. Great scares and screams. ★★★½

All shows are at 3:30, 7:00, and 9:15 p.m. Admission is always free.

ALL SHOWS ARE AT 3:30, 7:00, and 9:15 p.m.
ADMISSION IS ALWAYS FREE.

Streisand Returns to Broadway

by Tina Boucher
Staff Writer

If you enjoy theater and the music it produces, then you will enjoy this album. Barbara Streisand has taken her favorite numbers from various musicals such as *Westside Story*, *Showboat* and *Sunday in the Park With George*, and recorded them on one album.

Streisand worked closely with Steven Sonhiem, having him rearrange a few of his classics and even doing a little rewriting on a couple occassions. Sonhiem added another verse to his "Send in the Clowns" ballad, and also changed the song "Putting it Together" from putting a painting together to putting this album together, both at Streisand's request.

The album was recorded the old fashioned way, live with an orchestra. Although the single "Somewhere" from *Westside Story* was modernized with synthesizers, the sounds and music you hear are from their respective instruments used by some of the top people in the business. Even Stevie Wonder assists on the record, playing harmonica on one of the tracks.

It's no news that Streisand has a powerful voice, but on *The Broadway Album* she is allowed to cut loose. The vocals are right on target and at times seem as though they were written for her to sing.

If you enjoy Streisand and you like Broadway show tunes, than I recommend this album highly and also recommend watching *The Making of the Broadway Album* on HBO this month.

"We Are The World" Display

by Joni Perkins
Contributing Writer

The library is currently displaying photographs of faculty from different cultures and backgrounds. The display is mounted on the first floor, and the photographs are by Robert J. Thomas, Communications/Media Department.

The display is in keeping with the theme of the second annual multi-cultural event that was held on campus recently in the Union Stop Pub, and was sponsored by the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee.

The event was attended by over 60 members of the college community. The buffet meal and the entertainment was also based on the theme of the multi-cultural population on campus.

The theme of the photographs on display is "We Are The World," and is a visual reminder of the multi-cultures represented on campus.

According to library staff, the display will remain for an indefinite period of time.

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Up and In in Beverly Hills

by Lisa Paine
Staff Writer

No one can be down and out after seeing *Down and Out in Beverly Hills.*

Paul Mazursky's latest flick, starring Richard Dreyfuss, Bette Midler and Nick Nolte is a comedic tour de force. It is doubtful that even the most dour sour puss can leave the theatre without a good belly laugh.

The film pokes fun at the idle rich of Beverly Hills but not in a mundane or didactic manner. Their neurotic foibles are exuberantly performed by the cast and the audience is left laughing at the idiocy of their lives.

Bette Midler, with her long, tapered, talon-tipped fingers, wiggles her way from frame to frame in this movie. She preaches the values of her yogi, guru, and the dog's psychiatrist. Her orgasmic shouts rock the entire neighborhood, and later turn into a luscious lullabye which rocks her bed partner to sleep.
dler is a singer, her comedy is so strong. There are some great scenes where she really seems to be enjoying herself, as if she ad-libbed it because she knows the character better than Mazursky does.

Richard Dreyfuss, looking much thinner and a bit like Paul Newman with his neat gray hair, plays Dave Whiteman—a guy who has made a fortune making wire coat hangers. Whiteman has a son who spends his life with a movie camera on his shoulders—every family hostility is saved for prosterity. He speaks to his parents through bizarre home-made video tapes. Whiteman has a daughter, too, who he believes is anorexic, and he is sleeping with his maid. His dog Matisse is anything but his best friend, and Whiteman easily reciprocates the sentiment.

Nick Nolte plays Jerry, the begdraggled bum who loses his scruffy-haired dog Kerouac, and brings attention to himself at the Whiteman house when he attempts to drown himself in their swimming pool. Nolte, who looks a lot better than I remember him looking, has some close up shots where the camera seems to be trying to get a better look inside those incredibly blue eyes.

After Dave rescues Jerry from drowning, he decides to be his savior. Like his daughter tells him, "guilt sucks."

No one feels guilty in this movie, and Dave's need to be father, protector, friend and cohort to Jerry is a way for him perhaps to avoid the guilt. Early in the film there is a reference to the starving children in the world. Dave makes some eloquent canned comment—and gets Thanksgiving dinner catered.

Jerry and Matisse, who is diagnosed by the dog psychiatrist as having "a nipple complex" and being under too much stress, fall for one another, and soon enough, the entire household falls for Jerry, too.

Matisse, played by Mike, has a strong performance. The cut away shots to Matisse's expressions provide for some of the biggest laughs in the movie.

Down and Out is beautifully shot, and quite funny. The casting is precise—the performances, Mike's included, are a joy to watch.

Plugging In The Outlets

by Tim Boutin
Staff Writer

Enigma Recording Artists, The Outlets, will perform at FSC's Campus Center Pub on March 3. Doors will open at 8 p.m.

The Outlets were founded in 1980 by guitarists Dave and Rick Barton, drummer Walter Gustafson, and bassist Mike White. The band gained a following in Boston through their energetic performances at area clubs.

The band released a series of singles on the Modern Method label (some appearing on compilation albums) before disbanding in 1983.

In 1984, bored by their respective day jobs, The Outlets regrouped. Joe McCormack handled the bass playing chores (since replaced by Mike County).

The band signed to the Enigma label in 1985 and released their debut album in September. The LP features familiar Outlets' standards such as "Can't Cheat The Reaper" and "Tilted Track."

The performance is being sponsored by the Programs Committee and WXPL. Admission is free and all ages are welcome.

A True Story

by Pamela Freedman
Contributing Writer

The Official Story is a tense political drama about missing children in Argentina. It centers around one seemingly happy upper-middle class family, relatively unaffected by the political turmoil surrounding them. As the movie progresses, the corruption filters down and touches their lives.

Alicia (Norma Aleandro) is a wife and mother who teaches Argentinian history. She preaches the cliches and lessons of the past as they were taught to her.

A series of events make her aware of a government conspiracy in which the babies of political prisoners are stolen from their natural mothers and put up for "adoption." She wonders about her own adopted daughter's natural mother.

As her knowledge increases, she questions her previous notions of history, her husband's possible involvement in the adoption conspiracy, and the power of the Argentinian regime.

The revelations of this one woman reflect the larger picture of the political crisis in Argentina. Writer-director Luis Puenzo does not use excessive gore or violence to make the point. Rather, he gives us a subtle and realistic picture of everyday life in an Argentinian family. The audience can relate to Alicia and to her desire to seek the truth.

In the movie there are demonstrations in which people hold up signs with pictures of their missing children. There is no bloodshed, but the viewer senses that violence could erupt any moment. It is precisely this type of understatement that makes this movie so terrifying.

The subtitles do not lesson the powerful impact of this drama. Aleandro performs brilliantly, letting us feel everything she does. The action in the movie is not sufficient to make it work. It is the underlying theme, horrifying but true, that makes this film important.

Rock of the Renaissance

by Noreen Casey and Thomas Proulx
Staff Writers

David Lee Roth and Claudio Montiverdi have more in common than you might think.

Both have written popular songs about common adolescent concerns such as love sex and partying. However, Montiverdi—a sixteenth century composer famous for his madrigals—was at it about 500 years before Roth was.

Montiverdi was one of several madrigal composers featured during a recent performance at FSC of the Boston Camerata—a singing group that specializes in Renaissance and Baroque madrigals.

According to director Joel Cohen, "madrigals were the videos of their day." Like videos, madrigals require a short attention span, and covey a plot or theme in only a few short minutes.

The madrigals performed by the Camerata revealed several distinct themes. These included the spiritual joy of love, the spiritual pain of love, the physical joy of love, the joy of dancing and the joy of music.

The striking feature of madrigals, aside from their brevity and emotional density, is the fact that they are created exclusively for voice. Most accompaniment is minimal and extraneous. The Camerata used only a spinet and a lute. Consequently, the performance relied on the vocal interplay of the performers.

Fairly well attended, the Camerata's performance captivated the audience's attention. Never long-winded or pretentious, the Camerata entertained and educated, showing that although the sound of popular music has changed drastically, the concerns of popular music haven't. haven't.

"YOUNGBLOOD" RUNS COLD

by Tim Boutin
Staff Writer

"Hey, Pretty Boy, what does it take to make you fight back?" reads the advertisement for the film "Youngblood."

Yes, Rob Lowe, what will it take?

In the film Lowe plays Dean Youngblood, a young hick from the States who travels to Canada to play hockey. Youngblood's goal is to reach the N.H.L. Youngblood is a shrimp in comparison to his teammates.

In short time the team thug (who bears a striking resemblance to Slap Shot's Ogie Oglethorpe), is battering Youngblood all over the ice, and Youngblood manages to offend almost everyone within shouting distance. He has an affair with his landlord, goes out with the coach's daughter, and plays the hick he is, after a nightlong battle with a bottle of tequila.

His one bright move is befriending the team's captain (Patrick Swayze). The captain and Youngblood play well together and the hockey future of the two looks rosy until Swayze's character is injured by the same thug that messed up Youngblood in the beginning of the film. His teammate's injury proves to be too traumatic for Youngblood, so he heads back to the family farm in Hicksville, U.S.A.

After Youngblood's father and brother toss him around and show him how to "fight back," he decides to return to the team. You can probably guess where the plot goes from there because I was able to.

"Youngblood" is a predictable movie and that is its greatest downfall. Lowe seems uninspired with his role and strolls through his scenes with all the enthusiasm of a used puck bag. Judging from his skating ability (or lack of it) he would have trouble making the cut for a Fitchburg Wallopers team.

Swayze turns in the film's best performance, with Cynthia Gibb's (Youngblood's girlfriend) running a close second.

I think the film could have used more character development and less "Rocky" type fight scenes.

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Continued Page 10

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Taking Stock

From Page 1

spring of 1976, the first Assessment week was held in order to re-unite the cmapus after a period of some unrest. This assessment period, like the upcoming one included faculty, administration, and students.

Students wishing to participate in Assessment Week should see either the department chairperson of their major, or Therese Bushner in the Vice President of Academic Affairs Office if the student is undeclared. Students who are chosen will be expected to be prepared for the discussions and participate fully in them.

Whether students use this week as a vacation or to catch up on homework is up to them, but the campus will be open. The library will operate on its regular schedule, and the residence halls, Campus Center, and dining facilities will be open.

When the Smoke Clears . . .

From Page 1

ment should avoid situations in which personal liberties are at stake. "We will soon find ourselves under the control of Big Brother," she said. "Accommodation, not legislation is the key here."

Dr. Bernard Dushman would like to keep government intervention to a minimum as well. Dushman, President of Ohio Civil Liberties Union and the Assistant Dean at Yale Law School, says, "If the government wants to cut down on cigarette smoking they shouldn't subsidize the tobacco farmers." Dushman's answer to the current dispute in the White House as well as nationwide is "simply, education.

Although cigarette advertising has been cited by the AMA as promoting smoking in young adults, all parties interviewed on the show oppose any ban on ads in protection of the right of freedom of speech.

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SPORTS

Hoop Tourney Finds Falcons

by Andy Baron
Staff Writer

Victories—that's been the story (Jan. 23 - Feb. 25), of late for the FSC men's basketball team. In the past 15 games, FSC has emerged victors 14 times. Fitchburg, 20-6, has cruised in recent weeks before falling to visiting Salem State, 68-66. The loss proved costly, though, as league-leading Salem retained first place in the MASCAC Conference.

An FSC win would have propelled them into a first-place tie with Salem with a bid in the NCAA Division III Tournament. Instead, Coach Tom Kelly and crew are now looking for an ECAC tournament berth.

"I have no qualms about the game (Salem)," commented Kelly. "I just don't think we played as smart as we could have."

Smart play quickly disposed of Nichols College, 77-59, and Westfield State, 76-67, following the tough loss to Salem. "This is the best season Fitchburg's ever had," continued Kelly. "I don't expect to lose any more games."

With just four contests remaining FSC has a sound shot of winning 20 games this season, while Kelly's expectations may well be upheld.

Fitchburg's story has been successful one this season. A positive showing in the tournament would be a fitting conclusion to an already banner year.

Contest

O.K. all you college hoop authorities. So you think you know more than Al Maguire? Or maybe Dick Vitale can't hold a candle to you? Well, here's your chance to prove it once and for all. Introducing the NCAA "Pick-'em-All" college basketball tournament contest.

Rules: Before the tournament starts, select whom you think the winners will be in each game of each round of the NCAA tourney, right down to your eventual winner. Then, as the actual tournament moves along, increasing points will be awarded to your score as your teams make it further into the tournament, with highest total points determining the winner. (i.e. correctly chosen winners of first round games earn one point, correctly chosen winners of second round games receive three points etc., until you reach the national championship game where a correct selection gets you a 20 point reward.)

Entry sheets with all the tournament pairings will be available in G-lobby or in the Strobe office immediately following the announcement of the teams to be involved (some time in mid-March) and must be returned to the Strobe office or any Strobe official before any games take place. Only one entry will be allowed per person.

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ICE-ING THEIR WAY TO THE TOURNEY

File Photo by Jim Paiva

The FSC hockey team is bound for glory in tournament play

by Andy Baron
Staff Writer

Posting a 14-4 divisional record and a 15-8 overall record, FSC hockey coach Dean Fuller sees his squad as a legitimate threat in post-season tournament play. "We have an excellent chance to advance into the finals," says Fuller. "What we're shooting for is the home ice advantage going into the first round."

Fuller's squad will be matched with Plymouth State on March 1. According to Fuller, the key to the Falcons play this season has been the exceptional line play of Bob McMahon, Joe Gurney, and Chris Page. With Roger Poussard and Tom Tobin both admirably minding the net this season, Fuller is content with playing the duo on a rotation basis. He admits, however, "I'm looking for one (of them) to take charge."

Next season, the Falcons should be equally as strong in the ECAC's North Division. Losing just three defenseman—Bob Sargent, Ray Boudreau, and John Norwood and one forward, Jim Vacarelo, the Falcons look to remain strong. In addition, the effective defensive play of freshmen Tom Coady, Johnny Jones, and Bob Vose has impressed Fuller this season.

Further reason to believe FSC will challenge next season is due to the return of Gurney, Paul Duato, Jim Paiva, and McMahon. "We've been out recruiting," said Fuller. "We're looking at three or four players who we think are real prospects."

Coach Fuller seems to have the proper perspective when it comes to Falcon success. "Continued success" is a cliche that fits in nicely with the FSC hockey program.

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All submissions must be typed and double-spaced. Editorials and letters are not to exceed 300 words and are subject to editing.